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**For Immediate Release**

**NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK and  
TODDLER IMMUNIZATION MONTH THEME  
“Community Immunity”**

April 22 to 29, 2006 is National Infant Immunization Week and May is Toddler Immunization Month. Throughout California, communities will host **“Community Immunity”** events to raise awareness about keeping high levels of childhood and adult immunizations. It takes a “community” of well-vaccinated children and adults to protect the too young or too frail from getting vaccine-preventable diseases.

Immunization rates keep improving but we need to do more to ensure children and adults are protected from deadly diseases like pertussis [whooping cough]. Pertussis is on the rise in California. In 2005, 2,200 pertussis cases were reported in California with 33 cases in San Bernardino County. Seven young children died from pertussis in California in 2005. Children are most vulnerable to pertussis, but teens and adults are also at risk. Infants typically get pertussis from adults and older siblings. We now have a new vaccine for adult pertussis. It is important that adults and teenagers, as well as children are immunized.

Immunizations protect families and communities. Immunizations are the most effective ways parents can protect their child’s health and the community’s health. The

Department of Public Health's goal is to raise awareness about the importance of immunizations across the lifespan. Through parents and health care providers, we can dramatically reduce vaccine-preventable diseases in California. It takes "Community Immunity" to protect those too young or too frail from serious vaccine preventable diseases. We want to continue our efforts to eliminate pertussis and other childhood diseases such as measles.. Parents get your children immunized, on time, every time.

Parents can make sure their children are up-to-date with their shots by going to walk in county clinics or calling (800) 722-4794. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Immunization Program operates a computerized immunization registry, VaxTrack so if a parent loses their child's immunization record registry may have the missing record. This prevents unneeded immunizations and saves parents time and cost. Now is the time to get your child up-to-date with all needed shots! For more information call the Immunization Program at **1-800-722-4794**.

The Immunization Program sponsors immunization clinics throughout the county. Parents can celebrate "**Community Immunity**" by bringing their children in to get needed vaccines and have their records checked for possible missing shots! Cost is \$13.00 per child but no child is turned away if they cannot pay. Call **1-800-722-4794** for the nearest clinic.